# Clay Geerdes
# ESSAYS: Volume One.
## First Edition.

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## COMIX PLUGOLA

### WHAT--NO VAGINA PARTY?

At UC this semester, you can vote for PENIS. If you were to stroll through Sproul Plaza this clear April afternoon, you would see a six foot phallic sign promoting the party platform. You'd even get a free condom. PENIS [Politically Educated Noninterested Students Party] wants to infiltrate the Associated Students and fulfill the true desires of the student body. Which are?

I had an interesting conversation with a five-year-old boy the other day at Ashkenaz. He was wearing a Ninja Turtle sweatshirt and I made the mistake of asking him which turtle he liked the best. Rafael. The boy was still karate-chopping folk dancers and telling everyone about the way the turtles wasted bad guys when his mother hauled him out the door. The moral: Never ask a kid about turtles.

**EL VIBORA 134** is $9 pp from J. M. Berengueuer, Plaza Beatas, 3, Barcelona, Spain. Adult sex material.

In the past, pure scientists took a snobbish view of business. They saw the pursuit of money as intellectually uninteresting, suited only to shopkeepers. And to do research for industry, even at the prestigious Bell or IBM labs, was only for those who couldn't get a university appointment. Thus the attitude of pure scientists was fundamentally critical toward the work of applied scientists, and to industry in general. Their long-standing antagonism kept university scientists free of contaminating industry ties, and whenever debate arose about technological matters, disinterested scientists were available to discuss the issues at the highest levels. But that is no longer true. There are very few molecular biologists and very few research institutions without commercial affiliations. The old days are gone. Genetic research continues, at a more furious pace than ever. But it is done in secret, and in haste, and for profit.

Michael Crichton
*Jurassic Park*, 1990

Micro comix live. The latest from Pocket Conspiracy Comics are THE JUST SAY NO TO TUNA BOOK and THE ENVIRONMENTALLY CORRECT BATHROOM.. These little comix are the same dimensions as the old eight-pagers and they cost a quarter apiece. Send a first class stamp for up to three. Argus IG, Dept. 35, POB 44802, Indianapolis, IN 46244.

IMAGO 3 is available from Figment Press, POB 3566, Moscow, ID 83843-0477. $5 pp. The mag uses some material. Query first.

REAL SCREAM COMICS 19 is $2 pp from Mike Culpepper, 808 Stanley Street, Nelson, B. C. V1L 1N7.

Like the seal balancing the red, white, and blue ball on the end of its faithful nose, a servile press is a circus act, as loudly and laughingly cheered by a military dictatorship as by a democratic republic.

Lewis Lapham
Harper's, May, 1991.

Universities are no longer the intellectual centers of the country. The very idea is preposterous. Universities are the backwater. Don't look so surprised. I'm not saying anything you don't know. Since World War II, all the really important discoveries have come out of private laboratories. The laser, the transistor, the polio vaccine, the microchip, the hologram,. the personal computer, magnetic resonance imaging, CAT scans--the list goes on and on. Universities simply aren't where it's happening any more. And they haven't been for forty years. If you want to do something important in computers or genetics, you don't go to the university.. What must you go through to start a new project? How many grant applications, how many forms, how many approvals? The steering committee? The department chairman? The university resources committee? How do you get more work space if you need it? More assistants if you need them? How long does all that take? A brilliant man can't squander precious time with forms and committees. Life is too short, and DNA too long. You want to make your mark. If you want to get something *done*, stay out of universities.

Michael Crichton
JURASSIC PARK, 1990.

## COPYRIGHT

For anything copyrighted after January 1, 1978, copyright protection lasts for the author's lifetime plus 50 years. Under the previous copyright laws, protection lasted from 26-47 years depending upon when it was filed. Works that were not reregisterred are in the public domain and may be reprinted by anyone. This is why we are seeing a lot of comic material reprinted. Many Golden Age comic books are in the public domain since the companies dissolved and the copyrights were never renewed.

If you wish to copyright something you have created and want information, send your query to

The Copyright Office
Information and Publications Section
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20559.
Forms may be ordered by phone from
1-202-287-9100

As a good primary source of recent copyright law, I recommend Daniel Sitarz' *The Desktop Publisher's Legal Handbook*, Nova Publishing Co., Carbondale, Illinois. 1989. A second good source is *The Writer's Lawyer: Essential Legal Advice for Writers and Editors in all Media*, by Ronald Goldfarb and Gail Ross. Random House, 1989. Goldfarb and Ross have a good discussion of the distinction between the work and the characters therein. Both books discuss libel, defamation of character, and invasion of privacy.

## WONDER CON

I visited Wonder Con in April. Larry Todd told me that Cobalt 60 was going through film treatments and might finally make it to the screen. Larry Welz was present drawing pictures of Cherry Poptart. Ed Brubaker gave me a copy of LOWLIFE #1. Steve Lafler gave me a copy of Lloyd Dangle's DANGLE 1. $3 from Cathead, POB 576. Hudson, MA 01749. Jane Oliver has TALES OF JERRY up to #9. She was sitting near a picture of Jim Morrison with vampire teeth. Her new address is 511 Grandview Rd., Sebastopol, CA 95472. $3 for Jerry. Ron Turner gave me copies of HORNY BIKER SLUTS 2 and the latest of Hunt Emerson's FIRKIN THE CAT (4 and 5). Jim Valentino was sketching. He is working on GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY for Marvel and said he was thinking of moving East. Disney was handing out buttons and postcards promoting this Summer's release of THE ROCKETEER. Dave Stevens was mobbed all the time I saw him. Long lines of people wanting his signature on everything. People wre putting on those idiot glasses to look at the 3-D Rocketeer just issued by Disney. Arn Saba has moved to Albany, California. I talked to Paul Mavrides about the latest Freak Brothers comic, #11. Bob Beerbohm said he was opening up an art gallery at the Cannery in San Francisco this coming May and will handle all the art of Rick Griffin as well as some of the early work of Shelton and Dave Sheridan. I saw a lot of totally ridiculous prices on comics [so what else is new?], mostly those early Ninja Turtles and they aren't even ten years old yet. Ah, well, you can put the price on and sit the comic out there, but that doesn't mean anyone is ever going to pay that price. I think this is nothing but collector vanity. I have a good memory and some of the books I see pasted up there have been there for years. The attempt to push golden age comics into a fad for the rich has a ways to go, but I fully suspect to read about something like ACTION 1 selling for a million dollars before I kick off. Most of the major painters never made a dime when they were alive, now their stuff is hanging in the homes of the rich. Aside from all the corporate greed, I had a nice time visiting with people. We are a weird community, we comics people. We see each other once or twice a year at these cons and most of the time we don't communicate. Half the people I talk to are people who have no time to answer their mail so I don't write to them and they don't write to me, but we all recognize that the comics brought us together. The lure was strong, that's for sure, because most of the guys who got into the trip fifteen or twenty years ago are still in it, most of them dealers and collectors. Same faces though framed in gray.

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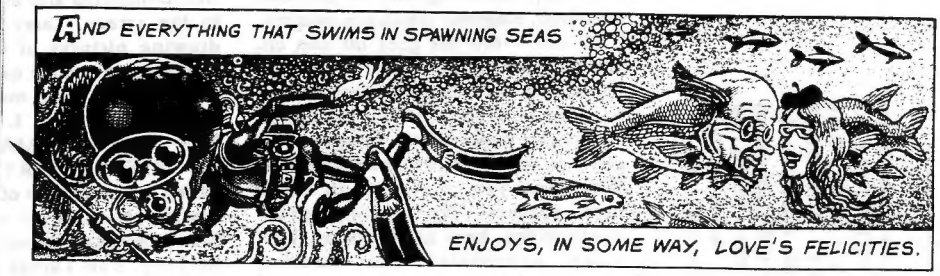
How do you get attention in this crowded world? Well, if you're Karen Finley you might go onstage and smear chocolate all over your body. Finley has written a book called SHOCK TREATMENT. She thinks of herself as a performance artist. Hey, we're all performance artists. Anything you do in front of one or more people is a performance. Finley did her act at the University Art Museum in Berkeley in November and I wasn't there. I've yet to see her in person, but *I love the idea of her.* Anyone who trashes a corrupt old racist warmonger like Jesse Helms can't be all bad.

Dali holds forth on the rhinoceros's horn, reputedly the world's most powerful aphrodisiac. He says, stretching out each vowel, "There is not a day I don't thank Sigmund Freud for his great truths. Thanks for him, in all my paintings I manage to paint a rhinoceros horn. Even in my famous Bread, there is a rhinoceros horn resting in the basket. I have to give you some powdered horn some day.

Ultra Violet
FAMOUS FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES.

## TURNABOUT

ESQUIRE, started in 1933, and now owned by the Hearst Corporation, is the latest men's mag to be infiltrated. The new publisher taking over in May is a lawyer named Nancy Nadler LeWinter who worked for VOGUE, GLAMOUR, and PENTHOUSE. I'll bet old Arnie Gingrich is turning over in his grave. But, hey, A woman runs PLAYBOY, another one runs HIGH SOCIETY, and the deceased wife of Larry Flynt, Andrea, ran HUSTLER for several years. We may yet see the day when Ms. is run by a man.




## COMIX PLUGOLA

CEREBUS 144 is out. The latest reprints are Nos. 53 and 54. The zipatone Aardvark meets Wolveroach.

Bill Shut and Jeff Gaither are responsible for the new issue of EXQUISITE CORPSE available from Starhead Comics, POB 30044, Seattle, WA 98103. 50¢/stamp.

I wrote a children's story called THE SLEEPY LITTLE ENGINE for a little friend of mine who is into trains and Jim Siergey drew some illos for it. I have printed a few of them for collectors. $2 pp from me. If you have a kid and would like it signed to him, please send along the name. C.G.

To transcribe thoughts spontaneously without any rational aesthetic constraint, to apply a paranoia critique to liberate men from the tyranny of the rational world.
-Salvador Dali's definition of Surrealism.

CLAUDE? WHAT IS IT?? I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, SUGAR.. ...MAYBE YOU'RE PUTTIN' IN TOO MUCH OVERTIME DOWN AT TH' TOYOTA PLANT---
I FOUND TH' PLEASURE MITTEN!!

# YOUNG LUST

**Twentieth Anniversary Issue**

### OLD LUST

21 years of Young Lust makes it old lust and while I laughed a lot at the first issue when I first saw it one afternoon at The Print Mint in Berkeley I didn't laugh once at the 7th issue. That one came out this year. Now my failure to laugh does not make YL a bad comic book. It just means I'm older and somewhat jaded in the lust department.

I thought Jay Kinney's transportation of Betty Page to Korea was an interesting exercise in cartoonery of the absurd and I liked Bill Griffith's drawing of a van hitting a teddy bear and I feel that Harry S. Robins is probably one of the best artists ever to infiltrate the underground and I suspect Spain is still being called a sexist otherwise why all that defensive stuff so on the whole YL7 shapes up quite well. It better at $3.50 a copy. As a parody of a love comic, it rates low if at all. I don't get the feeling that the artists therein have looked at any love comics for quite some time. I hate to say it, guys, but today's talk shows are a lot funnier and contemporary. I see no justification for calling this a *back to romance* issue, but artists usually do their own thing in comics like YL whatever the stated theme.

YOUNG LUST 7 is $5 by mail from Last Gasp, POB 410067, San Francisco, CA 94141 and you'd best send an age statement, because underground comix are adults only.

Latest rumor is that Betty Page will appear on the convention circuit this year, so look for her. Be interesting to hear what Betty thinks of all the attention being given her younger self.